



Tibetan Monastery Services

Introduction to Gompa – Tibetan Monastery Services

In a major cooperative initiative a wide range of state-of-the-art online services launch from leading monasteries and nunneries of India and Nepal

In a ground-breaking initiative, supported by H.H. the Dalai Lama and senior lamas of all traditions, state-of-the-art online services are now available from over forty of the major monasteries and nunneries in India and Nepal from Gompa – Tibetan Monastery Services (www.gompaservices.com), with the number of partner monasteries and nunneries continuing to grow steadily.

Gompa - Tibetan Monastery Services is a not-for-profit partnership of charitable foundations whose Advisory Council includes:



H.H. the Gyalwang
Karmapa



H.H. the Gongma
Trichen Rinpoche



H.H. the Drikung
Kyabgon Chetsang



H.H. the 34th
Menri Trizin



H.E. Kyabje
Ling Rinpoche



H.E. Minling
Khenchen Rinpoche



H.E. Choekyi
Nangwa Rinpoche

The primary aims of the Gompa partnership are to:

- help build a closer connection between the major monasteries and nunneries of India and Nepal and their followers worldwide and with all those who have an interest in classical Tibetan knowledge, practice, culture and arts around the world, and
- increase educational and scholastic research resources available in the monasteries and nunneries and to help fund a range of environmental and social welfare projects both within each partner monastery and nunnery and within the local communities which they serve.

The partner monasteries and nunneries are many of the most active monasteries and nunneries of India and Nepal and the senior lamas supporting the project, and teaching on the Gompa site, include many of the most eminent lamas of the main lineage traditions, see: www.gompaservices.com/tms/en/en_lamas.asp.

The online services established by Gompa so far, include:

- year round high production quality webcasts of teachings by eminent Rinpoches and senior lamas,
- online arrangement of prayers and pujas,
- an online service for making offerings and donations to the partner monasteries and nunneries with no transfer fees.

The Gompa partnership aims to make it as easy as possible, for all those with an interest, to participate in the teachings, rituals, empowerments and ceremonies held at the monasteries and nunneries; to sponsor prayers and rituals at times of special significance or difficulty in life; and to make meritorious offerings on auspicious days or special occasions, just as one could if the monastery or nunnery was in your own village, town or neighbourhood.

Importantly too, the online services are free from advertising (as carried by the commercial channels such as Facebook, YouTube and Google) and the webcast channel has been specifically created as an appropriate environment for the webcasting of the teachings, empowerments and the other special events held at the monasteries and nunneries.

Even in these early stages of the Gompa partnership, over \$125,000 in sponsorships and offerings have been received by the partner monasteries and nunneries to date and these funds are already helping to support much needed educational, social care and environmental projects in both the partner monasteries and nunneries and the local communities which they serve.

Background and Future Plans

Initial funding for the launch of the Gompa partnership was raised by the Orient Foundation for Arts and Culture, a UK charity, in part from supporters of the Private Office of H.H. the Dalai Lama and also from the Foundation's own trustees.

Since the early 1990s, the Orient Foundation for Arts and Culture has assisted in creating multimedia documentation centres and digital libraries in the monasteries and nunneries of India and Nepal and has worked in cooperation with the senior lamas of all traditions and the partner monasteries to build the Classical Tibetan Knowledge Archive and Multimedia Study Resource, which is now one of the largest multimedia archives of Tibetan cultural resources in the world. Currently, the archive includes more than 20,500 hours of recordings of oral commentaries to the key classical texts of Indo-Tibetan culture by many of the greatest masters, scholars, doctors, and artists of the 20th century, most of whom completed their studies in Tibet before 1959. The archive is available online (see www.tibetan-knowledge.org) and copies of the archive are also held in the libraries of the partner monasteries and nunneries.

All of the Gompa partnership's high definition recordings of teachings and special events are being archived and are also being distributed to the partner monasteries and nunneries, with the aim of ensuring that these important teachings and documentary records remain available for study by current and future generations worldwide.

Looking to the future, the Gompa partnership aims to help support a new and vitally important digital library and conservation initiative recently formed under the auspices of H.H the Dalai Lama. This new digital library platform and archive, the Tibetan International Digital Library (www.tidl.org), whose trustees include H.H. the Gyalwang Karmapa and H.E. Ling Rinpoche, is being established in order to create the first unified digital library platform, together with secure archival conservation, for the more than two hundred and forty digital collections of Tibetan Cultural Resources held in libraries and study centres around the world.

Expanding Network of Partner Monasteries and Nunneries

In India, Gompa's online services are available from the partner monasteries and nunneries at Dehradun, Bylakuppe, Hunsur, Mundgod, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Sikkim and Ladakh and, in Nepal, in the Kathmandu valley and at Namobuddha, see: www.gompaservices.com/tms/en/en_active_monasteries.asp. In both India and Nepal, the network of forty-four partner monasteries and nunneries is growing steadily.

For further information please contact:

Gompa's India office: liaison@gompaservices.com (languages spoken: English, Chinese, Tibetan)